



Police Department

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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POLICE UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM – PUBLIC MEETING

PULLMAN – The Pullman Police Department is seeking public input on Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS; Drones) policy development. The Police Department intends to use UAS for search & rescue, traffic coordination (such as post-game traffic for WSU home football games), outdoor crime scene and major traffic collision documentation, tactical reconnaissance, tactical deployment (SWAT), weather event reconnaissance (flooding), and to assist the Pullman Fire Department with firefighting coordination and tactics.

Police staff are developing the UAS program in collaboration with Washington State University Assistant Professor Matthew E. Taylor from the WSU School of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. Dr. Taylor specializes in artificial intelligence, machine learning, and robotics.

Pullman PD is developing a UAS policy that will be based on two factors: 1) best practices for authorized use of the UAS, and; 2) public input to address privacy concerns. Public meetings were held during the past month at Umpqua Bank and the CUB at WSU. The final meeting will be held:

When: Wednesday, May 17, 6:00 pm

Location: Pullman City Council Chambers, 325 SE Paradise St, Pullman WA 99163

All members of the public are invited. The previous meetings are available to view, and the May 17 meeting will be streamed live, on Facebook: www.facebook.com/PullmanPD. A draft policy is available on the Pullman PD website at <http://bit.ly/2p2r6aL>

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